

Message Text

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PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11 COME-00 OMB-01

TRSE-00 SAM-01 AID-20 /157 R

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NEA/EGY - MR. STERNER

NEA - MR. ATHERTON

PM - MR. STERN

S/S:WHLUERS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

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USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 066843

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BEXP, PFOR

SUBJECT: NIMBUS STAR/MOON - COORDINATION IN EGYPT

1. WE UNDERSTAND FROM TALKS CONDUCTED BY REAR ADMIRAL MCCAULEY WITH EGYPTIAN AND BRITISH REPRESENTATIVES IN CAIRO THAT EGYPT PLANS TO ESTABLISH AN AGENCY TO EFFECT COORDINATION OF SUEZ CANAL SWEEPING AND CLEARANCE OPERATIONS.

2. WE BELIEVE THAT A COORDINATION COMMITTEE HEADED BY AN EGYPTIAN AND WITH U.S. AND BRITISH PARTICIPATION IS THE BEST MEANS TO ACCOMPLISH THE DESIRED COORDINATION OF DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS.

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3. WE WOULD PREFER USE OF THE TITLE QUOTE COORDINATING COMMITTEE UNQUOTE RATHER THAN ANOTHER NAME, SUCH AS QUOTE COMMISSION UNQUOTE WHICH WOULD IMPLY A DEGREE OF COMMAND AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY BEYOND OUR INTENTIONS. A THREE PARTY COORDINATING COMMITTEE HEADED BY AN EGYPTIAN WILL GIVE PROPER RECOGNITION TO EGYPTIAN SOVEREIGNTY, RIGHTS, AND SHOULD PROVIDE PERCEPTION OF EGYPT'S PROPER ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN SUEZ CANAL CLEARANCE. THE EGYPTIANS OF COURSE ARE ONLY ONES IN A POSITION TO CERTIFY THE CANAL TO BE SAFE FOR USE, AND THE BRITISH-US EFFORTS ARE TO ASSIST THEM IN THIS UNDERTAKING. THE BRITISH DEFENSE STAFF, WITH WHOM WE HAVE BEEN COORDINATING IN

WASHINGTON, AGREE WITH THESE COMMENTS.

4. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT THE EGYPTIANS MAY NOMINATE REAR ADMIRAL FOUAD AS THEIR CHAIRMAN OF THE COORDINATION EFFORT. ADMIRAL FOUAD APPEARS TO BE WELL QUALIFIED. RADM MCCAULEY WOULD BE THE U.S. MEMBER OF A THREE-PARTY COORDINATING COMMITTEE. THE BRITISH HAVE INDICATED THAT THEIR NAVAL ATTACHE IN CAIRO WOULD BE THEIR REPRESENTATIVE.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: PURSUE WITH GOE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SUEZ CANAL CLEARANCE COORDINATING COMMITTEE, DRAWING ON THE ABOVE AS YOU FEEL APPROPRIATE. RUSH

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